

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

*World Trade Center 757/441-6331
Suite 8000, 101 West Main Street
Norfolk, VA 23510*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Further Information Contact:
Deanna Warren 757-441-6331

Norfolk, Virginia – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Olufunsho Oshunleti, age 23, of Greenbelt, Maryland, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Jerome B. Friedman to 72 months in prison and restitution of \$192,064.58 for his role as the organizer/leader of a counterfeit check scheme. He pled guilty on July 8, 2002.

This case began in March 2001 and culminated with a 14 count Indictment and arrest in May 2002. During the arrest, agents seized more than 75 credit applications stolen from a previous employer, copies of drivers licenses, and credit cards. Oshunleti obtained the counterfeit checks from an unnamed source and recruited several sailors to pass the counterfeit checks at various banks. He then obtained personal information from each of his co-conspirators in order to monitor the person's accounts and instructed them to withdraw the monies after the checks had cleared. The co-conspirators were able to keep a portion of the proceeds from the checks, but the bulk of the money was returned to Oshunleti. When approximately \$33,000 was confiscated by police from some of the co-conspirators, Oshunleti confronted these co-conspirators and attempted to get them to participate in additional counterfeit check schemes in order to get the money back.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service and U.S. Secret Service, as participants in the Hampton Roads Financial Crimes Task Force (HRFCTF), investigated this case. Assistant United States Attorney Darryl Mitchell handled the prosecution for the United States.